



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Northeastern Area
State & Private
Forestry

180 Canfield Street
Morgantown, WV 26505-3101

File Code: 3460 (NA-03-01)

Date: December 5, 2002

Subject: 2002 Gypsy Moth Biological Evaluation

To: Clyde Thompson, Forest Supervisor
Monongahela National Forest

Enclosed is the gypsy moth biological evaluation for the Monongahela National Forest (MNF) conducted in 2002. Included is our recommendation for the treatment of the area north of Lake Sherwood where it has been determined that the predicted defoliation and potential mortality in 2003 would conflict with forest management objectives.

Although the MNF gypsy moth program has been conducted under an adequate plan in the past, this process can be improved and should be adapted, given that all of the MNF is now within the generally infested area for gypsy moth. The future potential for high population levels across large areas of the forest and the cost in resources needed to sample these population with any level of confidence, are not maximized by sampling areas in which the potential for treatment is low. To respond to these above facts, we propose that the MNF develop predefined damage thresholds for specific areas of the forest with high resource values (campgrounds, recreation areas, T & E habitat, etc.). Our Forest Health Protection staff should develop a more efficient sampling design, which includes the likelihood of mortality factors, such as GM fungal epizootics. All this will hopefully result in a more efficient and proactive response to GM outbreaks in the future.

I believe this evaluation will provide you with the information to make the necessary management decisions, to deal with this current outbreak but if you or any of your staff have any questions or would like further information, please feel free to contact Rick Turcotte at (304) 285-1544.

Sincerely,

JOHN W. HAZEL
Field Representative
Forest Health Protection

Enclosures

Cc: District Ranger, Cheat RD w/enclosures
District Ranger, Gauley RD w/enclosures
District Ranger, Greenbrier RD w/enclosures
District Ranger, Marlinton RD w/enclosures
District Ranger, Potomac RD w/enclosures
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